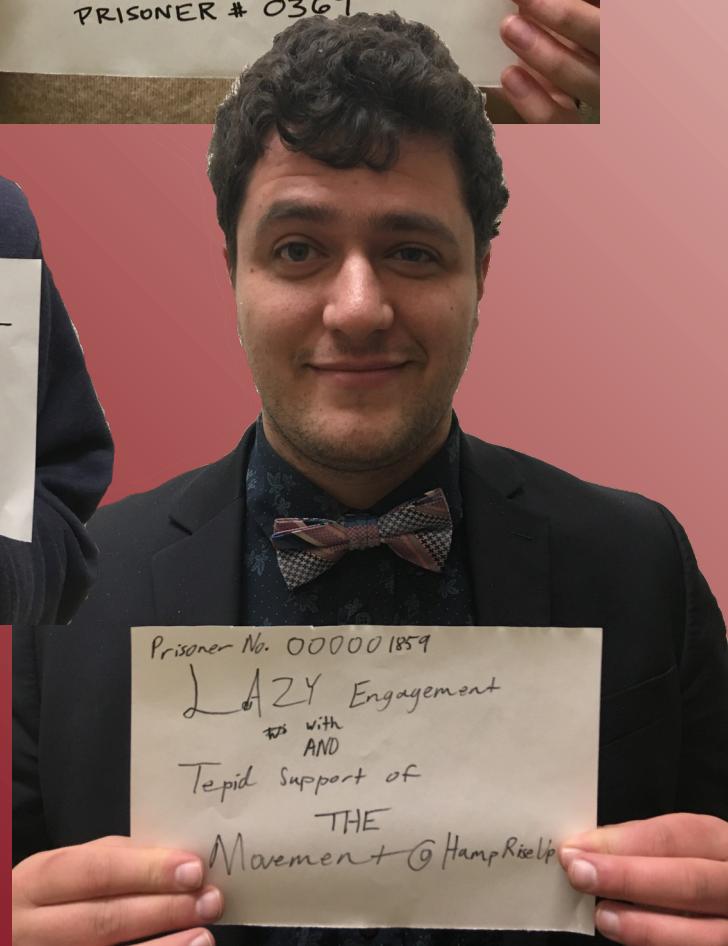
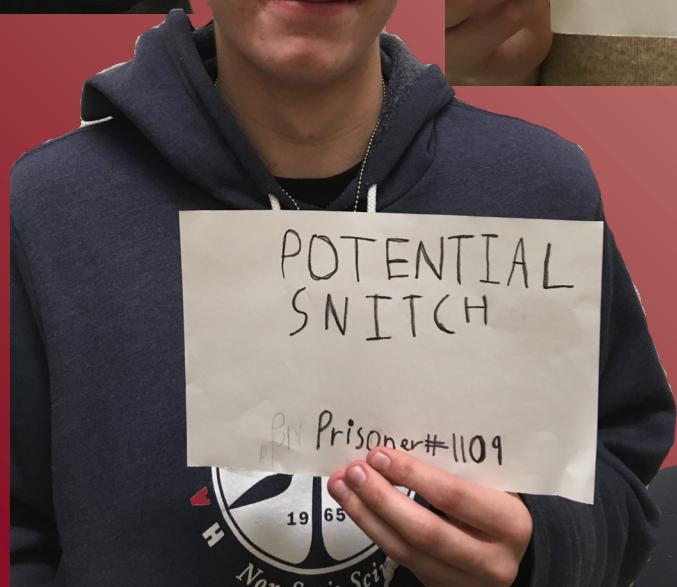
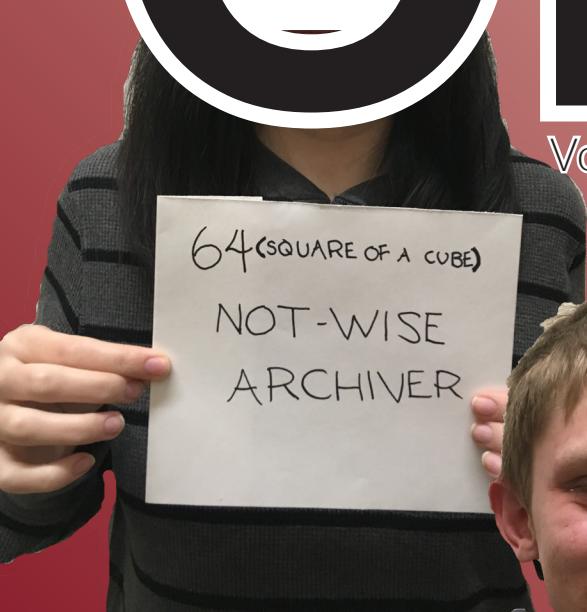


Omen

Volume 50, Issue 4



Traitors to
the Hampshire
Student Body

The Omen • Volume 50, Issue 4

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Staff Box: (In order of appearance)

Chloe: I mean, I already did. So, yes?

Will: Hell no. I refuse on the grounds of morality

George: I hope so.

Ida: No, I finished it 27 minutes late.

Simon: It is my greatest hope, so I fear it may not be.

Front & Back Cover: Omen Staff Collaborative Effort

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in any format (no PDFs please) by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu, the Omen Office or Chloe's mailbox (0369)

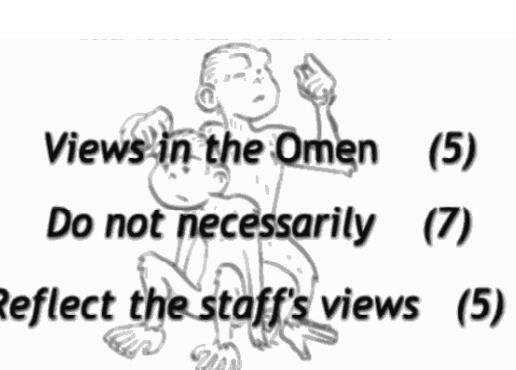
Policy

The Omen is a bimonthly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish.

Your submission must include the name you use around campus: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Thursday nights in the basement of Merrill in the company of a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Thursdays in Saga, the post office, online at <http://expelallo.men>, and just about any other place we can find to put it.



Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)

EDITORIAL

Ida Kao

The reign of Times New Roman is over!

Hello, wider Hampshire community! This is your new editrix! This is technically my second editorial and thus the second issue under my tenure, but the Valentine's Day issue was just me rambling on about my dog and commentary on the miscellaneous periodicals at the library. (Why would anyone in Massachusetts want to read about Iowa?)

I think this is where I explain what I enjoy writing about and what can be expected stylistically in the layout of The Omen from now on. I'm a writer and not a graphic design kind of person, so don't expect the covers to be as pretty as the ones Chloe has laid out, although that's not unusual given the more... avant-garde covers that can be viewed in the online archives. I appreciate a healthy dose of typography/content mismatch, so expect lots of curly calligraphy in Hate from this point on. Alum F. Stewart-Taylor also felt the need to call for more variation in font. If Stewart-Taylor asketh, I shall giveth (check the horoscope). I will also earnestly Comic Sans the shit out of anything I feel for any reason, whether it's because I like it, I hate it, or I feel like it's appropriate given the content of a submission.

As for what I like to write about? Don't expect many more mentions of my dog on paper, as I tend to discuss him in person. I like keeping up with and commenting on national, state, and local politics, despite being incredibly unqualified to do so. I like writing about people I know, typically through psychoanalyzing them or by using their actions to demonstrate a broader concept I wish to discuss at length. I always try to ask for their permission before writing about them, and I will certainly leave them out if requested. I enjoy philosophy, so get ready for some esoteric, convoluted, nigh-unreadable writing on abstract topics that probably don't have much application to the daily life of a generic Hampshire student.

Do you know what also does not have application to the daily life of a Hampshire student, but is significantly more relatable and decidedly less frustrating to read? MEMES. I will not pull a "How do you do, fellow kids?"

and roll out all the dank memes I know in an attempt to prove my meme knowledge, because bombarding an eye-rolling, irony-appreciating audience with memes, even fresh ones, is a pretty stupid move to pull. Going on about my meme knowledge is already bordering on poor meme etiquette, so I will allow my abilities as Meme Captain, as declared by the rest of the Omen Staff on one sleep-deprived Thursday night, to shine through. But I will note that intentionally bad meme making is not beyond my purview, and I will be sure to only use the stalest of memes (looking at you, flossing) when intentionally making bad memes.

That said, I am new to Macbooks, iMacs, MacOS, and any non-phone Apple device. Expect my meme-making to be hampered while I get used to InDesign, the aforementioned Macs, and actually doing all the stuff the editrix is supposed to do but is currently being done by Chloe. Like finishing layout, getting Omens printed, organizing meetings, etc. It's a gradual transition, because I'm new new new to this and I might as well practice with training wheels until the wheels (Chloe) graduate and I'm left with scraped knees and massive amounts of confusion.

Regardless of the state of affairs at The Omen office, remember that The Omen loves you! Please love us back!

SECTION SPEAK

Letter from past Editor: submitted 2/12/2019

Hi Chloe et al,

Below please find a piece I would request that you publish as an opinion piece from an alum of both The Omen and Hampshire College. I know things are very tense on campus right now, and without intending to escalate those tensions, I think it's important to talk about how The Omen sees itself- y'all can make a judgement call about if you want to publish, since 'alums' are not the primary 'community' The Omen addresses, for all that we are, or were in my day, a little obsessed with our legacy. Wishing y'all the best as you navigate this difficult time-

-F.

Sup nerds.

The Omen is the most important thing any of y'all are gonna do at Hampshire, if you do it right. Omen staffers from my time in the Indesign hole remain my close friends, chosen family, and favorite internet memelords. I hope The Omen gives you all this and more- I'm proud of y'all and grateful to y'all for keeping The Omen going. It's a scrappy publication, and it makes a scrappy team- the long hours and intense scorn from "real" newspapers tended to forge bonds stronger than even attending Signer Seminar six semesters in a row could break. It's also where I learned how to be accountable for who I am as part of a community, for how my visibility as Omen editor gave me some, limited, prominence and some, limited, privileging of my voice as a community member. Being Omen editor is more than getting to pick the fonts, although I recommend getting way weirder with your fonts. It's about being a visible face for one of the only spaces for students to directly share their opinions.

Not to sound like an old man, although I am, but there's something different about media which is distributed locally- y'all caught on to this, when you talked about The Omen as for the Hampshire Community. It's not for your facebook friends, it's not for your snapchat whatevers, it's for The Hampshire Community- classmates, admins, SAGA workers, anyone who goes to the mailroom can get one to read on the 39 and throw out when you get to NoHo. As such, y'all have a responsibility in how you choose to present your coverage of current events, and how you choose to present yourselves as The Omen.

It would be against the spirit of the Omen to chastise you, too much, for what you've written. I'll leave that up to your peers, who, if they, rightfully, think what you've written is basically cowardice, throwing your fellow students and your professors under the bus in favor of apparent civility and calm, can submit to the goddamn Omen about it.

What I am gonna say is that you can't both claim to do reporting "for" or "as" The Omen, and claim that your name on that masthead doesn't mean anything. If you're going to claim to be doing reporting, you can't go on half-assed spy missions. That violates, first, the same standards of civility y'all're working your pants into a twist about when the Hamp RiseUp folks do it, and second, the Omen's fundamental principle of being brave enough to put your name out there with your takes. We've had all kinds of extremely foolish and controversial work put out in the Omen before- in my time alone, we had a really racist article about baby names, someone who wrote in three or four times complaining that Hampshire discriminates against white cis men, and also I proposed banning men from peeing on campus, which was kind of a joke but I still think it should happen. Our founders were libertarian weirdos, some of whom did pro-wrestling moves in military surplus gear to scare tour groups, but they put their names out there. If the Omen has an ethos, it is this: Own your shit.

You haven't done that, and you need to.

All love and solidarity to the faculty, staff, and students who are facing an uncertain future for an institution and its ideals they are still fighting to protect- you are modeling those very ideals in your fight, and you are the hope of the college, no matter what becomes of it.

Admin, y'all can honestly fuck off with this bullshit, what is your problem.

With love,

-F. Stewart-Taylor

Former Omen Editor

PS- HMU for the door code if you wanna steal the layout computer

Dear F. Stewart-Taylor,

A majority of the Omen Staff's energy during the layout for this issue has been devoted towards constructing a response towards Shel's letter, so I thought that I would spread my return letter to include you. I think that I addressed some of the concerns that you had in my response to Shel, but I would like to respond to this section:

"Our founders were libertarian weirdos, some of whom did pro-wrestling moves in military surplus gear to scare tour groups, but they put their names out there. If the Omen has an ethos, it is this: Own your shit.

You haven't done that, and you need to."

After giggling, because messing with people like that is always entertaining, I found myself confused. I'm not sure what you meant by your insinuation that we haven't put our names out there and your claim that we haven't owned our shit. Just like anyone else who submits to the Omen, we have put our names on what we have submitted. I tried my best to be transparent with how we came the decision to print what we did. I completely agree with your additional statement that, "*you can't both claim to do reporting "for" or "as" The Omen, and claim that your name on that masthead doesn't mean anything.*" That was my mistake. When Ida and Will were out collecting information, they did make clear to every person they talked to that they were intending to write an article about the protests and submit it to the Omen. And how they may have phrased that (at least in the beginning) was by saying "I'm a member of the Omen staff, can I use this conversation in my article."

Both of these phrasings amount to the same thing in the end, but the second also conveys the impression to those who don't know what the Omen is that the Omen is at all similar

to a "real" newspaper beyond the superficial description that "we publish stuff." The reason that this became such an issue is because, unfortunately, most Hampshire students' perception of the press has been informed by the many terrible experiences that Hampshire has had with media coverage (particularly national media) in the past. This meant that saying "I'm with the Omen," meant that Ida and Will were treated with a great amount of suspicion and distrust by students involved with the protest. You may have noticed that the article by Simon Fields, who is also a member of the Omen staff, is much more sympathetic to the protesters which was largely because he didn't identify himself as Omen staff in the meetings that he attended (once again, everything that he wrote about was a public meeting). So, I guess what I'm saying is that those who tried to own the title of being reporters or journalists (and first time reporters and journalists at that) were treated with a level of distrust that made it nigh on impossible to achieve the objectivity that they were hoping for when they set out.

Our words do have meaning, and putting our names on our words has meaning, and that meaning is that we believe in and will take responsibility for what we write in the Omen. But the fact that Omen staff are trying to do journalism does not change the fact that the Omen itself is not a publication like the New York Times whose pages are constructed out of articles by reporters who are rigorously dedicated to make sure they adhere to journalistic ethics. My name on what I write means that it is what I think and what I have chosen to put out in the community, and the fact that I am the editrix (or the ex-editrix) of the Omen does not mean that my words are necessarily more trustworthy than anyone else's who submits to the Omen. I was asked last week if I had even thought about putting an "Opinion" label on various articles in the Omen. My response was that it would be superfluous since all articles in the Omen

should be considered to be opinion. So instead of saying that Omen staff are not reporting “for” the Omen, we could instead say that anyone, whether or not they have stepped foot in the Omen office, who submits to the Omen is reporting “for” the Omen. I guess my point is that while everyone should obviously do their best to adhere to journalistic ethics when publishing news in the Omen (or anywhere else), those who are Omen staff shouldn’t be required to do so when everyone else who submits to the Omen isn’t.

I’m not sure if this explanation helps us to “own our shit,” but I’m doing my best. I learned all that I know about journalism and reporting

from observation and from internet searches. I also cannot speak for the opinion and methods of other Omen staff or those who submit to the Omen besides myself. All I can do is write what I believe to be true about events as I think they occurred, what the Omen is, and what journalism is and to give my advice and feedback when it is asked for. Also, thank you for your letter. I think the most depressing thing about all of this is that despite the many people who I’m sure are angry at what we published, Omen alumni are still the only ones who have written any sort of response to it.

Chloe Omelchuck

“Hampshire is right, Lily is fragile. Wait. I’m sorry Lily, that was my mistake.”

- Ida Kao

Still pondering the Hamp Crisis?

Are you a fan of self-care?



Come reflect on:



The Crisis
Your Diiiv,
The state of America,
Cute farm animals
The essay you're procrastinating,
Or anything else on your mind.

Submitted by Lily Friedrich

The ***presidential shower*** is open to any and all students in need of a quiet place to further their academic journey.

Where? @Cole Science Center

@The President’s Office

When? @ 11AM-5PM 2-11-19

or any time you need it because you deserve it(;

Dear F. Stewart-Taylor,

For some reason I hear “y’all” here in Massachusetts more than rural Virginia, which is the real proper South where people have legit Appalachian accents. I’m glad that you found a sense of community and bonding with your fellow Omen peoples during your time as editrix, and I have found friends in my late-night ranting and social anxiety induced wangsting (THAT MEANS WHINE-ANGSTING NOT WANKING OKAY I AM NOT BRITISH) in the Merrill A basement as well.

Nonetheless, I take issue with your letter. I do not have Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, music.ly, TikTok, Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube, Whatsapp, YikYak, or whatever the hell else you want to fling at me. I have a long dormant Pinterest account and a Reddit in which I do not disclose identifying information, but that is clearly an entirely different realm from starting Facebook fights. I will be honest and say that I’m pretty sure Chloe, Simon, and Will are just as unsociable as I am and don’t have any of the above social media accounts either, including Pinterest and Reddit. Even if any of them did, I don’t think they’re using those to preach their message, and I know for a fact that I am not publishing letters to HampRiseUp on Pinterest.

I’ll be honest and say that I’m not really sure what exactly is the cowardice and under-the-bus throwing that my fellow students may be chastising us for; I admit I didn’t make this clear, but I personally don’t like administration, I just don’t want to hold the organizers of HampRiseUp as untouchable angels. I will also try and speak for Will and Simon as well as myself, although I don’t have their explicit agreement to do so and they are free to object to what I say in their defense. Will and I went out of our way to identify ourselves as individuals looking to write for The Omen, although we initially just said “Omen staff” because that’s a shorter and sweeter way of saying “we’re both people who regularly go to Omen Layout meetings and we want to write something for The Omen”. Simon was in a bit of an odd position as he actively participated in the sit-in, but left after a few days. Anecdotally, and, I will note, unverifiably, I know he is not the only one to leave within the first week. What he submitted was from the point of view as a protestor, and as a result he didn’t bother identifying himself as much because he wasn’t going around taking notes and asking questions.

If you are explicitly referring to the way I put in the beginning of my article/piece/whatever you want to call it that I was trying to refrain from inserting my own judgment into my notes, I realize now that you have a point; neutrality, as much as everyone can try to strive for it, isn’t achievable. Your options are to 1) try to remain neutral as possible but acknowledge and work around your inability to be completely neutral, or 2) embrace your inability to be neutral and do everything you can to do what is right. Of course, what is right can often be disputed, and now some people even argue that there is no right and wrong. When I have a personal stake, it does seem kind of pointless to try and maintain neutrality. Sure, I retract that statement about trying to be neutral and act as a journalist whenever possible. Journalists are accused of bias and media outlets are often rated on their neutrality constantly, but there are some garbage outlets out there. Nonetheless, while I can’t say that I know who exactly you were trying to respond to since you didn’t name any names save Chloe in your email and reference her editorial, I still stand by what I have written, whether it’s trying to be neutral or not. My name is attached to it, and I’m not trying to hide that. Nor have some been afraid to voice their displeasure at me, and I’m not going to try and stop them from doing that if they have more grievances to share.

Thanks,
Ida Kao

Oh, and also, the Merrill basement flooded last year and the layout computer was left unsalvageable. We did get two new ones since the library replaced all their iMacs, but the lockbox code was changed. It actually kind of sucks that I rained on your parade, because Hampshire students stealing college property is kind of a tradition at this point. Someone snuck into the library through the unlocked doors in the Knowledge Commons and stole a rug, people took apart the Prescott gazebo and left the parts in the woods, and apparently a bunch of brand new sound equipment was stolen when Vibe put on a concert. But I don't have InDesign on my crappy personal PC laptop, so it's kind of necessary for me to have at least one.

Our community has suffered from many phishing and scam attacks hereby exposing staff sensitive confidential information. Hence, Information technology service has initiated the two-factor authentication login method mandatory for all users.

What's new?

When ever a login attempt is made to your account, a verification code will be sent to your mobile phone to confirm its you login in.

Review www.hampshire.edu/owa/client-services/2-factor-login to get started with this service

Note:- You are meant to login from your personal device to save your IP address in our database for more efficiency of this service

IT service will not be held responsible for any compromise of accounts that never keyed-in this service!

submitted by David Dongseong Ko

WHAT IS LIBERAL?

BY WILL NEWHALL

Recently, I wrote an essay in which I talked about forgiveness and how “hate only begets hate.” Now, I’m going to talk about equality and liberalism. We claim to be an all inclusive community but that is not in fact true. We can be just as hateful and wrong as the people we condemn. The Martin Luther King Jr. quote “Hate only begets more hate” doesn’t just apply to victims of racism and xenophobia, it also applies to racists and xenophobes themselves. Those people are human too. While you may not like it, it is true. They are human and so are you. Just because they dehumanize you doesn’t give you the right to dehumanize them. If you respond to hate by hating, then you will only perpetuate the problem. If you really want to stop hate, then you have to stop hating others.

The definition of “liberal” according to the Oxford English Dictionary is: “adj. Willing to respect or accept behaviour or opinions different from one’s own; open to new ideas”. While this is mostly true of the Hampshire community, it is not true when we talk about those we perceive as our “opponents.” This makes us hypocrites. Being open to new ideas means letting others speak their minds no matter how much we disagree with their opinions. This means giving Republicans a seat at the table. The liberal idea is to give everyone a voice no matter what that voice is. If we don’t practice what we preach then we are no better than our critics. We are worse. We are hypocrites.

People may say that it’s “easy for you as a cisgendered, straight, white, male”. It’s true that I don’t have your experiences, but neither does the person sitting next to you. Or the person across the hall. Or the person who you sit in class with. We are all different people with different perspectives and experiences. It’s easy to discredit others but it’s harder to listen to them. We are all incredibly fortunate individuals. Everyone here is fed, has a place to live, and has a good education. We are all incredibly lucky. There are people who are starving and yet people here still have the nerve to act like they have it worse. We are all lucky. We are all privileged. We need to remember that.

A person who had read my article approached me and they told me that they liked my article except that it was “sympathetic to racists and homophobes”. This person misinterpreted my article, because I clearly say to “look back on yourselves and reflect on your treatment of everyone. Not just those that agree with you. Not just your friends. But your enemies too. I mean Republicans, I mean Trump, I mean homophobes, and all xenophobes for that matter.” I know that it is hard and that these people have treated you horribly, but you need to know that they are human. Humans make mistakes. When someone makes a mistake you forgive

them. You don't have to forgive them immediately but you should forgive them. It's not easy. If it were, everyone would do it all the time, but it's not and we don't do it all the time.

In my article, I forgave the people who abused me when I was a child. But I didn't just say "I forgive you", I also mentioned what I was forgiving them for. I forgave the teacher for locking me in a room and hitting me. I forgave my father for threatening and bullying me. So, I'm asking you to please, please try to forgive those who've hurt you. It's not easy, but it is important.

I frequently hear the phrase "I hear you". At first it seemed genuine but as time went on I started to notice something. I noticed that people would say "I hear you, but..." and then reiterate their argument and not listen to what I'd said. The first definition of the word "hear" is: "to perceive or become aware of by the ear" whereas to listen is defined as "to pay attention to sound". So basically, "I hear you" is a crafty way of saying "shut the hell up". When you hear, you perceive, but when you listen you pay attention. So next time don't just say "I hear you". Listen. Understand. Because why would someone listen to you when you refuse to listen to them?

When you silence, or attempt to silence, others you dehumanize them. When you shout someone down, you dehumanize them. If you allow others to speak, if you listen, you make them feel heard. You make them feel valued. You make them feel human.

We mock our opponents as ignorant, useless, buffoons when, in fact, they are people just like us. They have friends and family who love them, jobs that they love, children and parents that they support. These people don't just wear red MAGA hats and scream "FAKE NEWS!" They have real values and really do want what's best for their world. When we mock them, we tear them down when we could be helping them better understand. We could start a conversation where we listen to their concerns, they listen to ours, and we come to a solution together. This is not to say that you can't disagree, you just shouldn't dismiss the views of others because they disagree with you. If you want true transparency, if you want to be listened to, then you need to listen.

If we hate those who hate us, then we are just as bad as they are. In fact, I would say that we are worse because we perpetuate a problem that we could stop. We stoke the flames of hate instead of putting them out. Hate only begets hate and if we want to end the cycle then we need to show tolerance through kindness and mercy. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a world and a time where people can expect to live well into their 80's and 90's, we live in a world where everyone in the US can get an education, we live in a nation where we could have a truly liberal discussion. The world isn't perfect, but it is good, and we can make it better. We can make it better by listening to everyone and doing kind acts, even to those we disagree with.

Hey Kids, Use Your Heads - Shelley Rosen F12

submitted 2/11/2019

Hey kiddos, it's me, Shel. I didn't go by Shel when I was in the Omen but you may know me as the "Shadow Editor" who did layout when B and Grace were busy with homework or being sad (and then B would spend hours late at night fixing all my mistakes, whoopsie, sorry B!). I also built the Online Omen Archives (bork.hampshire.edu/~omen) and probably inspired this whole desire to document HampRiseUp in the Omen, so I feel kinda responsible for what's going on with y'all and a need to give you some tough love.

The Omen is our collective memory, yes, and wanting to chronicle these events is noble and your hearts are in the right place... but your heads aren't! Think about what's on the line here. Think about the dialectical relationship between what you write and what you're writing about.

There is a difference between writing irreverent Op-Eds chronicling campus drama around bathroom signage, the HSU, and the Halloween Budget; all of which are intended not just to chronicle but to influence campus politics... and what you're doing. There is a difference between "Here's what happened at this wild all-community meeting" and leaking what's being discussed in a private meeting of organizers where the people they're organizing against can read it. Especially when they have specifically requested that you not publish minutes of their private meetings.

We joke that nobody reads the Omen but we know that the staff, faculty, and the administration do, in fact, read the Omen. It's not just malicious MassLive reporters you have to be worried about.

There will always be people who hate the Omen. This is sort of a tradition. But the goal is to make the right people hate the Omen. Punch-up. Who was it that we incessantly made fun of 2010 through 2016? It was the social entrepreneurship students, the administration, the fake student government, the reactionaries upset about content warnings and safe spaces. Not the Black Lives Matter organizers, not the unionizing SAGA workers, not the anti-rape people.

Of course, the Omen is free to do whatever it wants and is obligated to publish what's submitted *so long as it is forthright, honest, and not libel*. Based on what I've heard about your conduct as "journalists" or "fake journalists" or whatever, I don't think you're being completely honest here about why the organizers are upset with you. You need to be honest about if you're being journalists or not. If you're genuinely a part of the movement, you should heed the requests of your comrades and not leak meeting notes or record meetings. If you're just attending as journalists, you shouldn't be secretly in attendance without getting their consent to "report on" their organizing meetings. It makes sense that they wouldn't trust you when you blatantly deceived them. It's not just that they want to control the narrative, they also don't want you indirectly snitching their plans to the administration, giving the administration the upper-hand.

Your close-knit raggedy omen crew running around to cover the action is cute, please don't stop omen-ing and being passionate about the Omen. I loved all of your poetic and positive depictions of the organizing efforts, just less-so the leaks. Here's my tough love for each of you individually.

Chloe: The Omen is all about being over dramatic and irreverent and thriving on drama. You seem to value civility and politeness. And yet, when politely asked not to publish notes from a private meeting, you decline and complain that they are being unruly. Consider this: Civility and politeness uphold the status quo. Without substantial pressure, workers who have toiled away for your benefit might all lose their jobs with no severance and no way to support their families. Faculty who get laid off might be condemned to adjunct-hell. Ultimately, you're taking a side. No matter what happens to Hampshire, Mim and the Board of Trustees will be fine, the workers will not. If someone actually submitted anti-HampRises stuff like, fine, publish it cuz it's the Omen, but you can choose to do what's right and write publish a counter-argument side-by-side, use a cover on your issue that is pro-worker. Don't go down in history as the liberal centrist anti-worker editor with no sense of humor or sense of justice.

Ida: Your passion for archiving is admirable and appreciated, but use your head. If you are not wise, and you damage this movement, there might not be a Hampshire in 20 years to be looking back on the Omen archives. Institutional memory is important, but you can like, hold off for a sec until it's history and not ongoing-events; unless your intent is to affect those events, in which case, affect them in a way that unilaterally supports the workers. This is the time for impassioned Op-Eds

supporting the protestors and taunting the administration's fauxpologies, the nuanced retrospectives can wait until later.

Simon: The administration is not your friend. Mim lives in a large house and earns about \$250,000/year; which with wise investing makes her very set for a very healthy living for a long time. Sure, it's stressful being on top, but it's also stressful not knowing if you're going to lose your job and not be able to feed your family. If Mim lost her job, she would not have this concern, she's sitting on a sweet \$250k. Also, you can't trust rich people. They'll say they love you but their interests are not with you. The managers and owners want to exploit the working class for their labor. They are not your friends. Your friends are the faculty and non-management workers. If you're going to be singing I LOVE YOU to someone, sing it to the SAGA workers making your breakfast, to the PhysPlant workers cleaning up after you, to whoever is overworked and struggling to support SOURCE, the CFF, and the Wellness Center right now, and to the faculty who work their butts off teaching you. You have more in common with them than you do with the administration or Campus Police. Also: Read The State and Revolution by V. I. Lenin. You'll thank me later.

Will: OK, my tough love for you is gonna be the toughest but also coming the most from a place of love. Being abused your whole life fucking sucks. Trust me, I understand. The Omen has been a haven for people struggling with their mental health for a long time, and all the alumni writing in Get It cuz we either were you or supported someone just like you in our time at Hampshire. Omen people came through for me when I needed to escape an abusive situation, and they also held me accountable when I was weaponizing my trauma and being shitty to other people. I'm going to play the latter role here.

I wrote my fair share of *As A Survivor...* oversharing pieces in the Omen. Looking back, I was very self-centered and thought of my own trauma as something others need to be considerate of, but without thinking about how I need to be considerate of other people, and the ways their trauma and needs matter. You should consider that you are not the only one with a fraught history in this story. You are not the protagonist. I don't know the personal lives of the organizers you butted heads with, but it's Hampshire, and it's more likely than not that they've all got PTSD and Anxiety and Bipolar and who-knows-what-else too. They're risking arrest and putting their degrees on the line to fight for other people's well-being. Being a cis het white dude doesn't negate your abuse... but also the queer people of color on campus all got PTSD too probably (facing racism is inherently traumatizing, to varying extents) and they're risking a lot when they involve themselves in organizing like this. If the police get involved, who do you think faces the greatest risk? The legitimacy of your own trauma is not negated by recognizing that you are not facing as much risk as these people are by being present in those meetings.

I think you're being dishonest about why these people are upset with you. You were attending private meetings where activists were talking about stuff that wasn't meant to be public information yet. Stuff like hypothetical plans to call for a union? That shit is confidential. I heard you were trying to record the meetings, and was asked to stop, and kept trying to record the meetings anyway. This is not being abusive and controlling, this is them trying to keep you from leaking their plans and not giving the upper-hand to the people they're organizing in opposition to. Some people there could potentially face personal and professional consequences from their presence at the meeting being known.

It sucks that you were triggered by someone taking a harsh tone with you (and I mean triggered in the medical sense.) That person was still justified to be frustrated with you for what you were doing, and those people were justified to be distrusting of you. Ultimately, you proved them right not to trust you, given what you said about them in public and what your response was when they tried to privately call you in on your behavior. Your actions have consequences on other people, and on yourself. If someone derided you as hateful and cruel in public, would you trust them? Would you be comfortable around them? Nobody is trying to poison your food and they're not out to get you. They saw you as a nuisance and a potential snitch who was interfering with their very important organizing meetings. If I was in charge of that meeting, I would have kicked you out as a matter of operational security.

PTSD sucks and panic attacks suck, I get it. Your trauma is not something these other people are obligated to know about and is not their primary concern right now. They are risking their own livelihoods, risking the trauma of police encounters, risking their degrees, in order to fight for all of the faculty and non-management staff at Hampshire. They are putting the needs of the many over their own. For a lot students of color, they might even have PTSD *around police* and putting themselves at-risk like this could be very triggering. Leaking information about their meetings, and making recordings (evidence) of what they said in meetings; that puts them all at risk.

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I hope your life moves towards a direction surrounded less by abuse and more by safety and people who care about you. I hope with therapy you can learn to manage anxiety and flashbacks. I hope you can forgive these sleep-deprived stressed out activists for not being overflowing with compassion for you when they're already spending it all on the people they're trying to protect with their organizing. I hope you can think about how they feel being written about so viciously when they're working so hard right now to support so many people.

Not you nor anyone at that sit-in is perfect. In this time of crisis at Hampshire, please try and remember to think about others complexly, and hold as much compassion for them and their needs as you do for your own. I see in you a righteous fire, I hope you can learn to harness that fire and allow it to drive you to fight for the downtrodden and oppressed, to fight for workers, to fight for our collective liberation. Perhaps, then, when you have worked on regaining the trust of those other students, they will forgive you.

To all the students sleeping on floors, missing classes, organizing, planning, plotting, marching, writing, and fighting for Hampshire and the workers who keep it going: Keep up the good work!!! I can't speak for all alums but every alum I know is inspired by your work and your passion and we're rooting for you! Hopefully you won't need it, but if you need me to post bail or something, I've got your back.

Love,
Shelley Rosen F12

P.S.



(It's an anemimne and a swim-mim.)

SECTION REPLIES TO SHELL(Y?)

Dear Shel,

When I first read your letter I went through it line by line and responded to every one of your concerns in a return letter that was quite long and used the phrase “civilly and politely” as many times as possible. I talked about how, as much as I can try to find all the opinions out there and represent them in the Omen, I only have so much time. And I went more into depth on my reasoning behind some of my critiques of the movement that you seemed to have such an issue with. But I also wanted to talk about what good work Hamp Rise up has done and is doing to represent the students of this college and to support the staff and faculty, and as I wrote I realized that so much has happened and changed since the last issue of the Omen and since you wrote to us that I really don’t want to spend my time dwelling on the critiques we had of a movement, that, at the time we were recording it, was disorganized and largely driven on denial of the crisis, fear of the unknown, and anger towards those who were perceived to be at fault.

So many of those feelings which characterized those few weeks aren’t feelings which are currently relevant or productive in where we are now, a few weeks later. I also don’t think that quibbling over how we presented that time will support the current movement in the way that you are hoping for. However, there is one factual thing that I would like to address. I went back and read through what both Ida and I wrote, and I can see how you may have come to the conclusion that we published the contents of a private meeting amongst the organizers. I would like to assure you that we did not. Though we may have mentioned the subject of the meeting and when it occurred in the issue, we did not include the details of the discussion which took

place during it. In fact, the meeting that we were speaking of was one in which Hamp Rise Up organizers were constructing the letter that was sent out on February 6th (which I submitted to the Omen), the day before the issue was released. The only meetings whose contents we detailed were public ones open to the community. I apologize for giving the impression that we published the contents of a private meeting.

With that business out of the way, I would also like to say how your critique of my overvaluing of civility and politeness made me giggle. I agree that not wanting to “hurt anyone’s feelings” is something that is unproductive and often is a method by which the status quo is maintained. However, I would also say that there is a difference between using civility and politeness in action and civility and politeness in tone. What I mean by that is I don’t particularly find myself inclined to listen or interact with people who clearly dislike me. And, given that I don’t like it, I don’t see why anyone would listen or interact with me if I made it clear that I don’t like them. So, I guess what I’m saying is that if I don’t use civility and politeness, how can I expect to get to some kind of middle ground with people whose opinions differ greatly from mine?

Anyway, thank you for making the archive, it made losing our old layout computer to the flood last winter significantly less awful.

Civilly and politely yours,

Chloe Omelchuck

DEAR SHELLEY ROSEN,

Why did I get the shortest response?! I am a tiny bit insulted, although I am not mega-insulted since you didn't treat me the same way you treated George, who got no response at all. What I wrote was not, in your eyes, as inflammatory as Will, or as buddy-buddy with the administration as Simon, or as "civil and polite" as Chloe. So it makes sense that I just got a short paragraph while Will got a good one or two pages.

Nonetheless, I feel obligated to comment on this whole thing, even though I would like to make clear that I am speaking as myself, and not as editrix of The Omen, some kind of representative of the nebulous entity that is The Omen, or even as someone who agrees with what Chloe, Simon, or Will has written in response to your submission.

I have a tendency to get super off topic when I write op-eds, so this is more for my sake. Whether it's Hamp.Rise.Up, HampRiseUp, Hamp Rise Up, or even Hamp Rise-Up, or just plain Rise.Up or Rise Up or RiseUp, or Hampshire Rise Up, Hampshire.Rise.Up, HampshireRiseUp, or something else entirely, this is ultimately what we are talking about. Everything about this whole ordeal on this campus is in relation to HampRiseUp, and trying to divorce your letter from would be poor form on my end.

I also have to finish this thing in two hours or so and have slept poorly for the past three or so days, so please forgive my inability to express everything I wish to express in full depth and breadth. I'll do my best to do this point by point for clarity. Also, my opinions and general view on the matter are probably better expressed in The Death of Nuance. So, with my scope of authority as the author of this op-ed and the topic established, let us begin!

Has anyone over the age of majority in the United

States every enjoyed being called "kid" or "kiddo" or "cute"? Even little kids (elementary school age) can tell when they're being talked down to, and it's honestly incredibly condescending.

I'm a little confused by how one person is directly responsible for inspiring the desire to document; I myself am a notetaker by habit, and I personally have a strong desire to communicate to individuals within my social circle that do not attend Hampshire or any of the Five Colleges about what is happening. These people are geographically displaced from this situation; future people wondering what happened with HampRiseUp are temporally displaced.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I know that I am far too busy to be constantly going to HampRiseUp town halls. Many students want to be somewhere but can't, and, as I noted in my original piece, I'm trying to record what I see and not insert my opinion, as if any other Hampshire student were to come in and observe what was happening. I also did not publish any minutes when asked; if you go back and read what I had written, you will see that I never attended any private meetings, and I hadn't published any minutes when I was asked. If you are skeptical, I suppose I could show the minutes I did take, but that would be showing an outside party notes that I had been asked not to show to outside parties. Those minutes were also concerning a press release that had already been sent out before The Omen was distributed.

I completely agree that people should not make fun of BLM organizers, unionizing SAGA workers, etc. But it is also not fair to stand by leadership in the Women's March who make anti-Semitic comments and associates with Nation of Islam leader. It is not fair to stand by Democratic lawmakers in my home state of Virginia that sexually assault women or think it is acceptable to pose in blackface and subsequently refuse to resign or take any responsibility for their actions. This isn't about purity tests. This is about treating

everyone with a basic sense of decency. It should not be someone trying to bar me from speaking with someone from The Amherst Student because she did not like what I had written, particularly when I had made an effort to be clear that I would write something about what I had seen for The Omen.

While Chloe has written her own response, I would also like to point out that the closing of the college, which is still a possibility from my understanding, would condemn the entirety of the faculty and staff without jobs, most likely at a much later notice compared to the emails that have been going out. This is also something you pointed out in your response to Simon, which I think also applies here. Having a few staff and faculty struggle to feed their families is preferable to force all of the staff and faculty here wonder about their next paycheck. The ideal solution is to not have to do that to anyone, but there's no way to guarantee that. Also, anyone is free to submit pro-HampRiseUp content; it is just that no one from HampRiseUp has done so, except for the press release from Sarahi, and I personally do not consider it fair to force someone to publish something that goes against what they personally believe.

I think something important must be said about nuance. If you read my reply to Ryan's article, you will see that I do not like the administration; hell, the administration fucked shit up pretty bad too many times for me to list them all here. But that doesn't mean it's okay for people in HampRiseUp to do anything that is good for the movement. Just because something benefits "your side" doesn't mean it's a good thing to do that. And I personally think that both sides suck, for reasons that hopefully have already been made clear here as well as later on.

It's hard to respond to some of your parts addressed to Will, because I am a woman of color and have not done my own Survivor Stories(TM) recounting in The Omen. A few things to note:

The sit-in is very different in nature compared to what you have may have seen in previous years. People are scheduling shifts and encouraging each other to go to class, do homework, and leave Cole to buy food and shower to avoid burnout. There only needs to be a few people to keep the sit-in going, and that is being used to minimize the number of bodies.

I haven't read Will's piece in full for a while, but you are right that people can be put in danger by attending certain meetings and having that publicized. For transparency, I will note what I have heard: RAs have been informed that any participation with HampRiseUp means losing their financial aid, faculty have been told that participation will be considered a breach of their contract and that will get them fired. These have all come through the grapevine so I can't verify this. I haven't heard anything about staff or any other particular group of students. But Will, as far as I know, did not publish any names. To try and blame him for naming people is pretty unfair and misleading to anyone that has not read what he has written.

IDA KAO

Dear Shelly,

You'd be surprised to learn this, but you're preaching to the choir (though the choir doesn't always sing the same tune). My sympathies are with the movement. My sympathies are with the SAGA workers and not with the managerial class. The part at the end about JLash and Mim was mainly tongue in cheek. I do think that the people who have had the stamina to remain involved in the sit-ins are heroes, and have argued this; they are willing to make great personal sacrifices. As for State and Revolution, I've been meaning to read it; I'm more of a Bakunin reader though, which is why I (already) expressed the hope that, "Someday, and I speak not only of Hampshire but of the wider world, someday we will be governed by decentralized, non-hierarchical organizers."

Best regards,

Simon Fields

In Response to Shelley Rosen F12 Op-Ed “Hey Kids, Use Your Heads”

Hello!

I am writing this at 9:30 pm February 21, 2019, and I am quite sleep deprived so please forgive any grammatical or spelling errors. Thank you for your lengthy segment for me. I'm quite honored! However, you are still assuming things about me. You don't know me, and you were not there when I broke down. Since the break down, I have recused myself from anything related to this protest both for my own health and to stay as close to accurate as I could possibly manage. My critics don't know me. If you would like to, my Email is hatemail.spammail@gmail.com feel free to message me. I always have time for my fans. I never said that I was the protagonist. Everyone in the world is merely a person. No one is the villain and no one is the hero. We are just people. The protesters are people. The faculty and staff are people. The administration are people. The main reason I wrote this was to share my story. Even though it's obvious to me that marginalized groups suffer, there is also a tendency to think reductively about identity to the point where people assume that they know what someone's been through by virtue of their identity. I just wanted to vocalize my experience

and practice my faith. I want to practice forgiveness.

The trauma I endured as a child is not all in the article. There is so much more to the story. Just as there is so much more to everyone else's story too. If I had detailed all the abuse I've suffered, I would have written an autobiography the size of the Bible. It would be a best seller too. What I told the community is only a piece of the whole story. I want the community to know that what I told them is only a keyhole into a much larger room.

The most important part of protesting is the risk. A major part of protesting is that you are putting something on the line. The risks the protesters have taken is admirable. Likewise when I wrote my first article I was aware of the risk I was taking to voice a dissenting opinion. If you could protest without risk what would be the point? The risk in a protest is a statement in and of itself. When you protest you are saying “I care more about this than my job security.” All protests have risk. All of them. Even a protest about IHOP becoming IHOb. That risk is what makes them valuable. That is an important part of free speech. You are free to say what you want, but so are other people.

I wrote about my trauma, I did not try to reduce the trauma of others. I was telling my story. I am aware that there are others with traumatizing stories. I'm sure there are others who have experienced similar things. I'm sure there are people who have experienced worse. In fact, I know people who have experienced worse, and none of us would ever try to diminish another's abuse. This is because we know that abuse is abuse. No one person's abuse is any worse or better than anyone else's. Abuse is terrible for everyone no matter the variety or the severity.

The Hampshire community preaches that they are accepting of everyone, yet you never see a conservative individual speaking their mind. If we were truly accepting of everyone, you would see both liberals and conservatives speaking their mind, yet, you do not. We are hypocrites. How can we claim to be accepting of everyone when we shut out those who disagree with us?

Where in my articles did I talk directly about things said in the meetings? Are you referring to the Sunday articles the one dated "Sunday, February 3, 2019, Sometime in the afternoon"? The Omen was published on the 8th. That means they had 5 days to release them. They did. They had released those notes by the time it was published. Furthermore, those meetings were not private. If you make something public, expect the public to talk about it. It is not a private party when you invite everyone in the neighborhood to your party. If you want something to be confidential you don't tell others about it.

Yes, I recorded events that took place in such locations as the RCC, Cole, and FPH Main Hall, on the first two days so that I could have the most accurate quotes possible. I did not name anyone involved, and I deleted the recordings afterwards. No, the recordings have not gone out to anyone and I stopped recording after those two days. I will also note that in the "Sunday, February 3, 2019, Sometime in the afternoon" segment there was a person with a video camera

recording the whole thing. I don't know about you, but personally, I think that video is far more damaging than anonymous quotes. We were merely quoting people's words. We were not recording their body language. Body language is private and off limits.

You were correct to say that I panicked. I'm sure you would have too, upon hearing that they wanted to exclude you despite all the work you'd done to write accurately, fairly, and adhere as much as possible to the boundaries they set in front of you. I recognize their need for privacy. However, if the protesters want transparency they should not shut out the press. From my perspective they were trying to silence any dissenting voice. That is not free speech. That is censorship. That is what dictators do. I am aware that my actions have consequences, that is why I did not name anyone in my articles unless they explicitly allowed me to or, were a public figure of some variety. Yes, they are free to call me out on my behavior, however I am also free to do that. Speech is a double edge sword. You are free to say something to someone but that same someone is also free to say something to you or even about you.

My life has moved "towards a direction surrounded less by abuse and more by safety and people who care about [me]." Thank you very much. Much like the protesters and the people I wrote about I too, was stressed and sleep-deprived. I literally slept about 12 hours over 5 days. I don't care that they didn't have compassion for me. I care that they assumed my life has been easy. I care that they tried to censor me. I know they don't like being written about. That is why I tried to maintain as little bias as possible and pulled myself out after my break down. I'm not saying that I'm perfect. I'm not saying that anyone else is perfect. No one is perfect. Everyone is human.

Cordially,
Will Newhall

SECTION HAMP CRISIS

UPDATE ON THE HAMPSHIRE CRISIS

by Chloe Omelchuck, submitted 2/24/2019

Note: Although this piece does include facts, it also includes my opinions. I have attempted to make clear what is opinion and what is fact, but please read with that in mind. The letters from Hamp Rise Up I mention were sent out to all students on February 11th and 15th.

The Hamp Rise Up movement has come a long ways since the beginning of the semester. Starting with a disorganized coalition of students drawn from student organizations like SOURCE, SAN, COSA, the res life student workers, and countless other students, it has quickly become something resembling a student government. That is, if the traditional structure of a student government wasn't one of the reasons that Hampshire hasn't had a student government in the past. For those who don't know, Hampshire hasn't had a student government since spring of 2015, and calling that organization functional is so much of a stretch it's pretty much taffy. In any case, I've been very impressed with the unification of Hampshire students towards a common goal, something which may have been made possible by the very simple and immediate goal of not having Hampshire close.

For those who are behind, the issue of admitting a spring class seems to be no longer a part of student demands (I don't think it was ever part of an official demand, because that whole thing happened before the official formation of Hamp Rise Up). Though I'm unsure (as a student who gets her news about the sit in from letters sent out via email) how much this still may be a topic

of discussion amongst students. For the record I personally don't think the potential benefit of full staff and faculty retention due to the admission of a F2019 class is worth the risk of 100% of the staff and faculty losing their jobs without severance- especially when the third (and in my opinion, safer option) is to not admit a F2019 class and lay off some proportion of the staff and faculty with severance while retaining the rest. That kind of all or nothing mentality to preserve Hampshire as it is, doesn't feel like the best way to preserve Hampshire in the future, but I cannot claim to have made the most extensive study of the probability of various outcomes.

Aside from being an organizational marvel Hamp Rise Up, working together with the staff and faculty crisis committee, have managed to gain greater transparency from the administration and the board, most importantly the dissolution of NDAs. They have also clarified their demands for negotiating the end of the sit-in, by stating that they want a greater student voice in the decision making-process moving forward. However, where I find myself confused is in the concept of "Hampshire shared governance." This concept was introduced to me in the most recent letter (on Feb 15) from Hamp Rise Up to Mim and the Board. The letter which was sent on February 11th contained the concrete demand that the two open positions in the board be filled by current students. This letter also included references to the formation of new committees and changes to the colleges' constitution. Where my confusion comes in is what is precisely meant by "Hampshire shared

governance” as mentioned in the letter on the 15th in contrast to just “shared governance.” The letter said they (Hamp Rise Up) had “wrote about” it, but it was not clear to me if “it” was the complete list of demands around shared governance in the February 11th letter, or a more specific idea that had been written down and sent to the administration at some other time.

Though the student vote of no confidence in the Board from the beginning of February seems to have lost steam, the staff and faculty did hold another vote last week. The results of this vote seem to be questionable and so no official result has been announced. In terms of votes of no confidence in the Board and the President, though they are largely symbolic, they can inspire the resignation of senior leadership. In the case of Mim, this still may not be effective because the Board could refuse to accept a resignation due to the contract. If Mim was allowed to resign the Dean of Faculty (and VP) Eva Rueschmann would become interim President. Hampshire’s board operates under little-understood rules, so it is unclear who precisely would fill positions if members were to resign. Personally, I can see how Mim and the Board’s historic unwillingness to be transparent and current refusal to allow students, staff, and faculty to participate in negotiations with a partner would be cause for a vote of no confidence. But being a cautious person I have to also note that Hampshire is on a little bit of a clock. A power shift now could help or hinder efforts to keep Hampshire open. It’s a question of whether the alternative leaders to Mim or the board members could resolve this crisis quickly enough vs. if we can get Mim and the Board to solve the crisis to everyone’s satisfaction.

Obviously the current crisis is not the ideal time to be revising our constitution or restructuring how the college is governed, but I suppose we also wouldn’t have discovered the flaws in our system without the current crisis. The only place where I would really like to advise caution is in

becoming overzealous in our desire to become a “radical” system of governance. People who have power or make more money or stand to make money are not automatically against our interests simply because they are those things. It is in everyone’s interests, including the administration’s, to have the college remain open. Obviously that doesn’t mean very much if we can’t also maintain what makes Hampshire unique, but I think that things like the posters mocking Mim and those encouraging students to go shower in Mim’s office, while amusing, aren’t the best way to get the administration to listen to student demands.

In conclusion, I admire the strides that the organizers of the Hamp Rise Up have made towards resolving the current crisis in a manner which is best for students, staff, and faculty. I have pointed out in the past that the members of the coalition were not representatively picked by the student body, therefore they cannot quite be the student government whose role they are currently filling. However, the reason that they are the voice of the movement is due to the long hours of thought and effort that they have put into organizing the movement’s mission and message. The reason that the Hamp Rise Up movement are an important and vital part of Hampshire’s current crisis is their dedication to representing the interests of the student body and supporting faculty and staff. The reason they are our representatives is because they are the ones who stepped up (and continue to step up) to do the job.

Standing up to Blackmail

By Simon Fields, submitted 2/28/2019

I would like to briefly respond to one of the more recent developments in the Hampshire crisis. I'm not a journalist,

but I have repeatedly checked this with a number of students who are involved, and also a professor who can be considered an unnamed source: a few days ago board chair Gaye Hill threatened to pull funding, and thereby shut the school down this very May, in the event of a Faculty Vote of no confidence.

It's a funny thing how these things work. In my last article, an article that was on the whole sympathetic to the movement, I said that I regretted signing a no-confidence petition. Though the petitions do carry their risks, at this point I'm glad that I signed it. I'm glad that I signed a second petition; senior leadership has shown its true colors, and it has lost my confidence. The last time I checked, it has lost the confidence of nearly 600 out of 1113 or so enrolled students, though that threshold might already have been reached.

Think about this for a moment: The whole ethical rationale behind choosing not to admit a Fall 2019 class was supposed to be protecting students who may find the school going insolvent before their graduation. Students who are already enrolled have been promised that all of us will be able to graduate. Next year there will be fewer faculty, and fewer options for classes, but at the very least, we were told, this was being done in our interests. As the best way to at least keep things going till everyone already enrolled here, and already taking out loans to be here, could get a degree. (Full disclosure: I'm graduating in May, and even though this enables me to be somewhat personally detached from this problem, I am very worried for my first, second, and third year friends.)

At the very least, we do have the capacity to make sure that everyone who is here can graduate. Yet Gaye Hill alarmed at the prospect of losing a symbolic vote, decided to intimidate Faculty and students. What's

more, and here's the key point: the action they threaten to take is at best legally dubious. AUP and Alum lawyers argue that since Board Members have a fiduciary responsibility not to take drastic actions, the kinds of drastic actions that Hill has threatened would be illegal.

Even if we were to take legal action, Hill would argue that it would take so much time that the bank would already have pulled our loans and shut the doors. Now we enter the realm of speculation: some argue that the bank wouldn't close our doors before the matter has been litigated.

No matter how we proceed, there will be risks. But at this point, figures in the senior leadership have demonstrated their willingness, technocratically and in the name of risk minimization, to take the greatest risks of all. To win in a battle of will, they are prepared like jostling elephants, to stamp out all the grass. To destroy the institution of Hampshire College tomorrow, so that they won't have to be repudiated the day after.

Some board members, including Luis Hernandez appear (from an outsider's perspective) to be more reasonable than Hill. I have avoided questioning the motives of Mim, Gloria et al., and would still argue that though admin is misguided, they are not misguided out of malice. That their jobs are incredibly difficult. That there is still a way forward for them to change course; that if they learn to respect, listen to, and truly involve campus constituencies, those same constituencies can make their jobs considerably easier. Nevertheless, we must never submit to blackmail.

The Death of Nuance

or, Ryan, You Selectively Published Quotes and Disrepresented My Opinion, and Really the Whole of the Student Body, But Also, it Isn't Just You

By Ida Kao

Dear Ryan,

I'm not sure if you'll ever get to read this, but I shall put it out here anyway in case you happen to pick up a copy of this particular issue.

First, I think it's important to commend you for including my comment in the Amherst Student article about how neither administration nor the protestors have allowed for transparency; I certainly do not want to portray myself as an ally of administration at Hampshire, given their actions and statements in the past few weeks.

Still, it's important here to note that using me as the only voice of dissent gives the impression that I represent the minority. The general number I have heard is that around 300 students have or currently are directly participating in HampRiseUp. This has come from individuals who participate in HampRiseUp and seek to communicate this number to you, as well as other individuals who are a part of the Five College community. Hampshire College, according to Forbes, has 1,321 students (<https://www.forbes.com/colleges/hampshire-college/>). I have been told multiple times by many students that the population is closer to 1,100 or so students, and given Hampshire has had a poor relationship with college rankings in the past, I will compromise and use an average of about 1,200 students as the size of Hampshire College. If 300 individuals are a part of HampRiseUp, that means about a quarter of the students are directly involved. There are also individuals who do support HampRiseUp and are incapable of being physically present. I will be generous and say that that is another 300 individuals. That means 600 out of approximately 1,200 students are in support of HampRiseUp, just about half of the student body. Using my opinions to try and

represent half of Hampshire in your article does not accurately reflect the Hampshire student body.

The rest of the student body? I will not try and speak for everyone, particularly because I have not asked any individuals if their comments can be included in this, and I will do my best to generalize statements that multiple individuals have said. Of the ten or so students I have talked to, many think that the administration is out of line; one individual noted how President Nelson and the Board has forgotten about the creative ways to fundraise and remain independent, while the general sentiment is that absolutely everything has been conducted behind closed doors and without community input. Another student said that they thought the demands of enrolling a 19F class and not laying off any staff or faculty were unrealistic.

Also, what about what the faculty or staff think? The no confidence vote for faculty has been delayed. I understand this to be because Hampshire administrators object because the conducting of the no confidence vote must be publicized for a week before the vote can actually occur, although many around me say that this is just administration trying to intervene and skew everything in their favor. While I do not know who decided on the weeklong period prior to the vote, I am inclined to believe the former, because I don't see how administration could stop the vote solely by saying that faculty cannot do that, and as a result I don't understand how it is reasonable to blame the administration for not just giving a reasonable objection, but also putting a stop to an illegitimate vote that would only waste the time of everyone involved. Still, the rumor mill of Hampshire chugs along happily, and I have also

heard whispers that a third of faculty will actually vote against the no confidence motion. For those of you that find double negatives confusing like I do, that means they do have confidence in Mim, the Board, administration, etc. While not a majority, I have heard concern that there is such a large minority that is dissenting, meaning it will not be the supermajority that pro-no confidence faculty are hoping for.

What I have heard could just be gossip, of course, and may or may not have any actual facts behind it. And it is also not fair to say that a simple majority means nothing; even a large minority voting in favor of the no confidence motion is cause for concern. But, to use the rhetoric of “standing in solidarity with staff and faculty” that HampRiseUp is using as a rallying cry for their movement, and by extension, implying that if students do not support HampRiseUp, that they are not supporting staff and faculty. To use this kind of language implies a binary; if you are with HampRiseUp and the demands of the movement, you are with the staff and faculty of this college. If you are not, you are with the administration and all the ways it has gone to restrict input from students, faculty, and staff.

I can't speak for anyone but myself, but I don't like binaries. I, too, am incredibly concerned by the way communication has been shut down by administration, but I also see how incredibly problematic it is to receive an email with demands from HampRiseUp, a movement purportedly representing students, that have been approved by a supermajority... of 100 or 200 or even 300 students. To call that a supermajority when three-quarters of the students at Hampshire were not consulted is an insult. I don't consider that shared governance. I consider that a loud minority.

The only public response I have heard from staff is an Intranet posting titled “To the Hampshire community,” (<https://intranet.hampshire.edu/news-events/to-the-hampshire-community>:

requires a Hampshire login) that, as of February 28th, 2019, 73 staff and faculty have signed, along with 55 others who consider themselves “Alums/ community members in solidarity.” It states that “It is time to seek another model.” It also cautions individuals that are “push[ing] for independence at any cost” as the signers of the letter “invite them to deeply consider the consequences of their actions for staff.”

It is certainly not diametrically opposed to the petition titled “A Response from Hampshire College Faculty, Staff, and Alumnx to Recent Announcements by Hampshire College Senior Leadership,” which circulated much earlier in the semester, predating the HampRiseUp name. There are a few individuals who have signed their name on both the Intranet posting and the Google Forms petition, and it is not impossible for someone can be in favor of a strategic partnership as well as be concerned about the poor handling of the negotiations by the administration.

It is, in my opinion, not impossible for anyone to have problems with both factions in this matter. The idea that President Nelson is intentionally trying to drive this school into the ground and leave us broke while she cackles all the way to the bank with \$250,00, or \$350,00, or however much she is paid, is absurd; she wants to keep her job just as much as I and many other students want to continue attending Hampshire. To try and antagonize administration and put up either incredibly unrealistic demands, or incredibly vague ones like “having a voice at the table” also antagonizes the very people that HampRiseUp is trying to recruit when it is clear that the purpose of the grandstanding is for the purpose of grandstanding alone.

In closing, Ryan, I hope that I have more clearly outlined the situation at Hampshire as I see it, and hopefully you have come to see how much more there is to this situation at Hampshire than just HampRiseUp participants.

Thanks,
Ida Kao

SECTION LIES

Chapter 4: Expulsion and an ignominious end

London, 1856

Submitted by Simon Fields

“Well, [chuckles] this can’t be good.” Sir Charles’s gout had the remarkable effect of tempering his vanity. At times his temper was worsened by sickness, yet a certain newfound sense of humility coupled with sardonic humour did add something to the charm of the old rogue. He was, in some respects, a different man from the rampaging meddler whose shouting preceded the protective action of sending Galton and Spencer infants to the Nursery, the swap of Natalie and Harry, and the sacking of the Spencers. “Who wrote this?”

The letter was angrily curt; it wasn’t difficult for Henri to spot the signature and the name written above it. “Meester William Whewall.”

Sir Charles racked his mind for the significance of this name.

“It is written on stationary from Trinity College, Cambridge.”

“But of course! Whewall is Master at Trinity. Go on man, pray continue.”

“Sir Charles, your son Harry has done a grave disservice to the Galton Family name. Partially out of respect for that name, we have endeavored to afford Master Harry Galton every imaginable opportunity to reform himself, to apply himself, to better himself. Nevertheless, his wild abandon of virtue, study and duty is undaunting in its steadfast refusal to relent. I am likewise obliged to relent — Harry Galton is hereby, henceforth and forevermore expelled from Trinity College.

Your Humble Servant,

William Whewall, FRS, FRG Esq.”

“Blast him.” Sir Charles, warming up for a rampage, distractedly speared his fork into the exposed top of the soft boiled egg.

“Sir —” Henri tried to warn Sir Charles.

“Don’t you defend him either. Sullyng the Galton family name,” Sir Charles fiercely preempted Henri’s warning, and seeking some comfort from his egg, jerked the fork to his mouth. He swallowed three quarters of an egg in one gulp.

“Sir —” Henri tried to warn Sir Charles.

“Don’t you defend him either. Sullyng the Galton family name,” Sir Charles fiercely preempted Henri’s warning, and seeking some comfort from his egg, jerked the fork to his mouth. He swallowed three quarters of an egg in one gulp. As Sir Charles choked, Henri frantically raced to his side, trying to keep his Master from passing into the next world. Lady Nell came rushing into the room, witnessing Henri’s efforts to save her husband’s life.

“Spit! Charles for the love of God, spit!”

Pushing with great force against Sir Charles’ back, Henri helped Charles chuck out most of the egg onto a post holding up the canopy of his bed. Sir Charles began regaining his breath, which was still fairly short, his grey face began regaining colour. Yet, in the middle of a short breath, as he shifted against his pillow, Sir Charles found himself gripped by a heart attack. His body lay limp on the bed, causing Henri to wonder if all was lost, or if there was still hope.

Before she even collapsed or sobbed or frantically kissed her husband’s corpse for the last time (all things Lady Nell was soon to do) she demanded Henri to explain, “Henri, I know you were trying to save him, but I must know. What in heavens’ brought this on?”

“This letter Madame.” Henri handed the letter to Lady Nell. As she read the letter, she had to simultaneously process her husband’s death and her wayward son’s expulsion.

“My child killed my husband! There is no avoiding the fact that in a just world, Harry would be convicted of manslaughter.”

“Yes Mdm., I quite agree.”

“Thankfully the world isn’t quite so just,” she added. Lady Nell was in complete shock, and descended upon her husband’s body, kissed his forehead. It wasn’t cold yet, in fact it was warmer than usual. Could he still be alive? “Henri find the doctor and bring him here immediately.”

“Madame.”

“Immediately!”

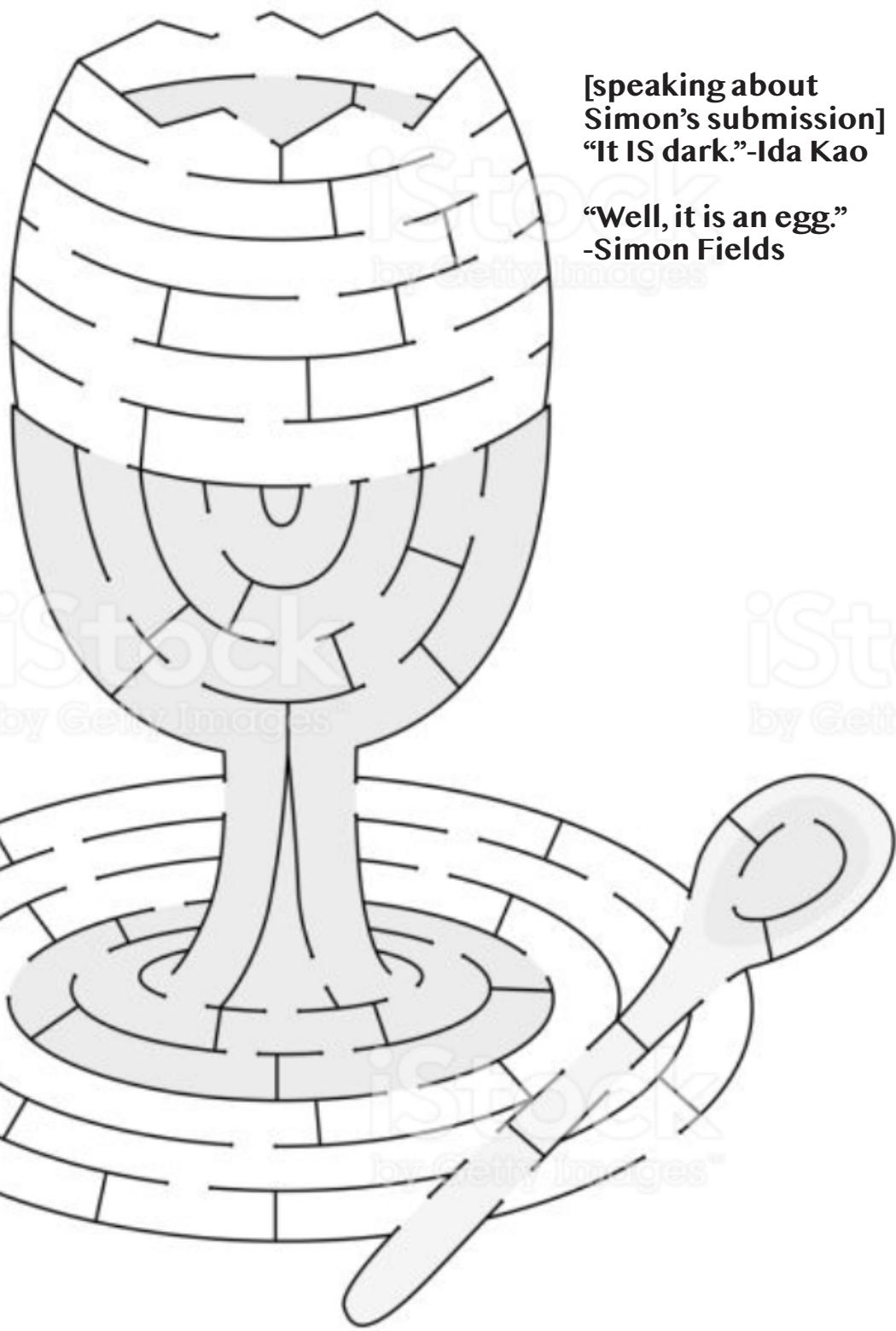
“He is dead.”

“Then our physician can pronounce him as such. Or else find a pulse and bring him from the jaws of death.”

“Yes Madam.”

Dr. Arnold eventually arrived. After examining the body, he was certain that life and pulse was absent in Sir Charles, Dr. Arnold opened his mouth. Planning to say that the Baronet was finally at peace, Dr. Arnold glanced again at the resting contortion on Sir Charles’ visage. No, talk of peace won’t do. “Ma’am,” as in ham, Dr. Arnold turned to Lady Nell, “I’m afraid it is over. He is lost.”

Soft-Boiled Egg [may you enjoy it more than Sir Charles]



[speaking about
Simon's submission]
"It IS dark." -Ida Kao

"Well, it is an egg."
-Simon Fields

<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/soft-boiled-egg-maze-gm1041243254-278765505>

Letters from Abe

Submitted by Will Newhall

Apparently, Abraham Lincoln would write hate mail towards people and then throw them out. However the Omen has found some that were not destroyed and have decided to publish them for the benefit of the community

Dear General McClellan,

Go suck my horse's oversized cock you dumbass hippy-stoner. Your values are that of a banana slug. Slimey.

Fuck you,

Abraham Fuckin' Lincoln

Hi Copperheads!

You fools! You childish shitheaded dipshits! I would tell you to go fuck yourselves but first you'd have to find your goddamn cocks!

Yours in the brothel,

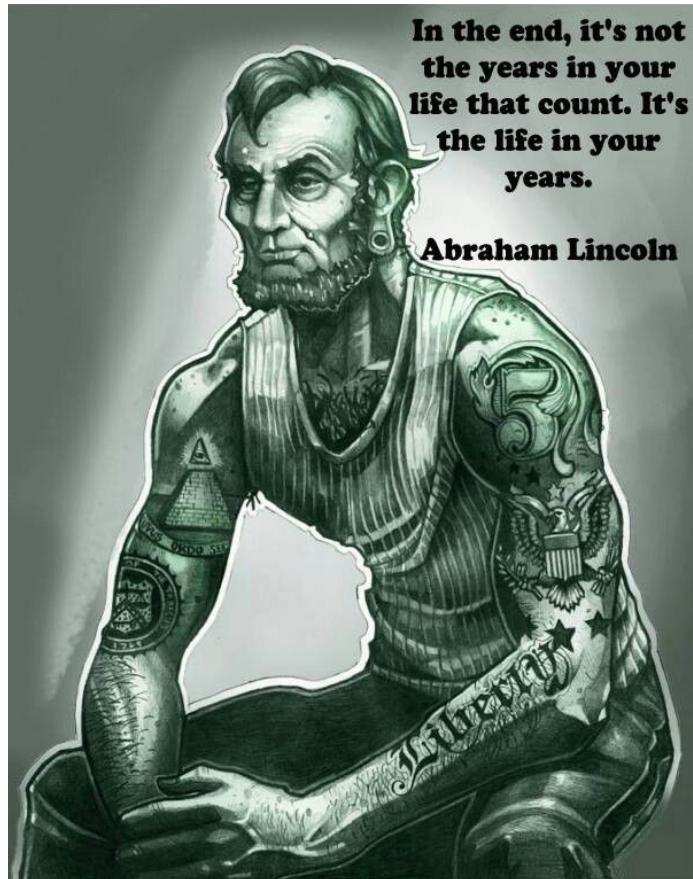
Abraham Fuckin' Lincoln

Jefferson Davis,

I cannot look you in the eyes because if I did I'm sure I would turn to stone. I'm not saying you are as ugly as Medusa. I'm saying you are Medusa. Your hideous lips are not permitted to kiss my gorgeous ass.

Your gorgeously humble President,

*Abraham
Fuckin'
Lincoln*



Letters from Abe [continued]

Submitted by Simon Fields

Dear William H. Seward,

You may think that I'm just a backcountry hick who needs guidance from your eminent statesmanlike hand, but you still lost. I WON! FUCK YOU SEWARD!

Also, starting a war of hemispheric conquest against France and Britain is really NOT what we should be doing right now. If you haven't noticed, Richmond is way too close to D.C.

Your Humble, honest President,

Abraham fuckin' Lincoln

To His Excellency Emperor Napoleon III,

Your presence in Mexico is a slap in the face to the Monroe Doctrine. You clearly are itching to aid the Confederacy. Leave at once or U.S. gunboats will roll down the River Seine.

Your Humble, honest President,

Abraham fuckin' Lincoln

The one letter Lincoln actually did send:

January 1st, 1864

To John Wilkes Booth,

I love to patronize the theater. Your father, Junius, and your brother Edwin make wonderful actors. With family such as yours, you could go far on their merits, though you are not currently in their league. However, acting itself is inherently dishonest; it's not unlike politics. You clearly are a man of integrity, and I appreciate people who have integrity. Even once you attain their level of thespian glory, you still would never be right to play the character of Brutus.

Sic Semper President,

Abraham fuckin' Lincoln

SECTION HATE

Hey sorry to be like this, but whoever used the cutting board, baking sheet, a pot, strainer, and bowl please don't leave them dirty all over the place. We just cleaned so we should get in the habit of cleaning up after meals.

- A Passive-Aggressive Message from Ethan Michael McGill Crain

(about Will Newhall)

"That may be another generic looking blond white boy."

- Ida Kao

"Critiques make me giggly." -Chloe Omelchuck

"I'm ready for these fucking angry fuckers." -Ida Kao

"Abraham Lincoln used to write these nasty letters and then throw them out, but why not submit them to the Omen?" - Simon Fields

"I appreciate passive-aggressive font choices."

-Chloe Omelchuck

"Do people from the eastern half of the U.S. know what a banana slug is?" -Chloe Omelchuck

"My dog has no need for pens." -Ida Kao

William Scandling



American businessman

William F. "Bill" Scandling was an American businessman and philanthropist who was one of the founders of Saga Corporation, a multi-billion dollar food service and restaurant company. Scandling donated money to his alma mater Hobart and William Smith Colleges. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: June 17, 1922, Rochester, NY

Died: August 22, 2005, Montreal, Canada

Books: [The saga of Saga](#)

Education: Brighton High School, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Feedback

"I really do wanna look dapper when I die"

- Simon Fields

The Omen Humorous Hampshire Horoscope

Aries: You will create a Dark Chocolate Starburst! It's not a crime against nature, it's free speech.

Taurus: You will be the Editrix's Chair Slave. Get me an armchair fool!

Gemini: You will strongly vocalize your dislike for Chrome Extension downloads.

Cancer: You will become ill

Leo: You will be soooooo lazy. No work at all. No play either. You'll just there. A vegetable for all to see.

Virgo: You will disturb a patch of "virgin" "snow"

Libra: You will not like hoodies for no good reason. They go really far past your butt. It's annoying.

SCORPIO: YOU WILL PUT 10\$ IN THE DOUCHEBAG JAR. ALSO KNOWN AS THE HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE ENDOWMENT. THEN SUBMIT TO THE OMEN.

Sagittarius: You will give a random slice of pizza to a random person. No plate. No utensils. Just put it there. Then walk away slowly

Capricorn: You will start an argument with no one in particular and then get accepted into law school. You didn't even apply, but for some reason you still got accepted.

Aquarius: Walk all the way to the Library to write one sentence. Then leave. Stare at the front desk as you walk out.

Pisces: Love the Omen, because the Omen loves you.

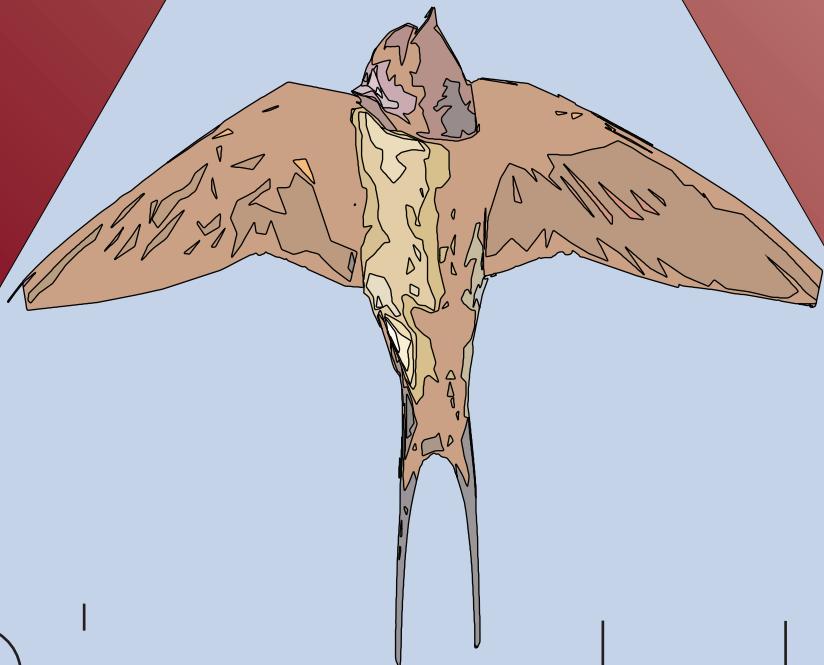
Note: As the Hampshire community knows, Cancer did not get a horoscope in the Erotic Edition of the Omen. It's not because the Omen staff don't care about you or that we forgot, it's because you have no future to forecast. The scrying bones were redacted. No need to thank us.

Your welcome,
The Omen Staff

Traders to the Hampshire
Student Body

FREE

SPEECH



Rise up